

based on their areas of expertise and their demonstrated ability to positively interact with adults and students. Ongoing professional development will be conducted on an at-need basis. All tutors will be required to attend a two hour training session prior to beginning the program. The training session will include the following areas: interpretation of standardized test data, various instructional strategies, recognizing student learning styles, use of provider supplemental materials, collecting data and disseminating student progress. The site coordinator will conduct weekly workshops on effective instructional strategies, use of software to diagnosis and prescribe and other topics that may occur. Staff development will be framed to meet the individual needs of students enrolled in the tutorial program. Staff will be provided with the resources to research and purchase materials to meet the learning needs of the students. All tutors will have to submit evidence of a criminal background check and certification prior to being hired.

### **3. EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS**

The parent company for Specialized Student Services, Alternatives Unlimited, has been operating three specific programs for the nontraditional learner in 25 schools nationwide in predominantly urban areas. The skills, strategies and techniques which have proven to be extremely effective with low performing students are duplicated and adapted for our tutoring programs.

Teachers in our tutoring programs express two overwhelming ideas: students are motivated to improve their academic skills when areas of confusion are clarified and knowledge of students' learning styles help to extend their ability

to process information. Parents and teachers have documented the excellent attendance and attitudes students have about the tutoring sessions. Once students experience success, they do not miss sessions and begin to feel better about their ability to learn.

Specialized Student Services' approach to reading instruction is based on the National Reading Panel's findings and recommendations. Our tutors are trained in using a diagnostic-prescriptive model that determines the student's reading skills. Individual instruction, depending on the student's learning needs, will include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension strategies.

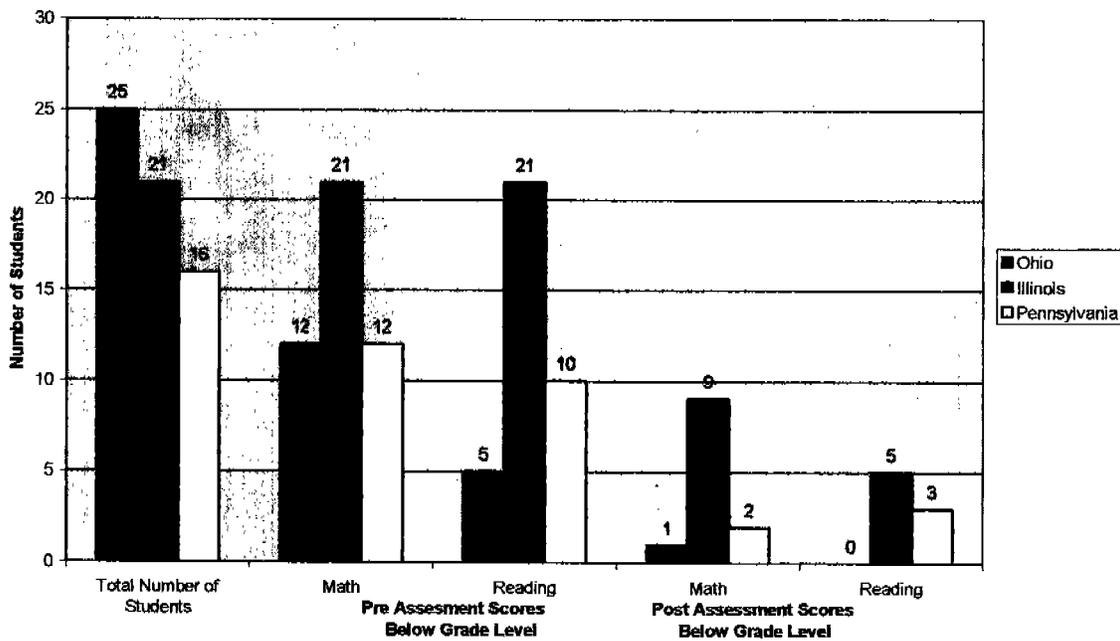
Mathematics instruction focuses on the standards outlined by The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Tutors develop individualized programs for students based on diagnostic testing and ongoing assessment of skills as outlined in Michigan curriculum content standards. Computer software and calculators may be used to extend student practice and assessment.

Writing instruction supports a literacy model recommended by the National Writing Project. Students will receive multiple opportunities to write a variety of responses: fictional, informational, technical, creative. Writing instruction will be closely aligned to the development and improvement of a student's reading skills.

At this point, SSS has operated tutoring programs in four states: Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio and California. In the Trotwood-Madison School District, all students passed the Ohio State Proficiency exams in reading and mathematics. The elementary school received "Continuous Improvement", the highest rating

ever earned in the district. In Pennsylvania, Illinois and California students showed consistent attendance and motivation to complete the required tasks. According to collected qualitative data, students demonstrated a more serious approach to engaging in classroom activities and showed confidence in taking standardized tests.

Specialized Student Services  
Student Progress 2004-2005



#### 4. EVALUATION AND MONITORING

A standardized assessment will be administered prior to the beginning of the tutorial program and again at the end. Each week student skills will be assessed based on state standards and their progress analyzed and communicated to the school and parents. Assessments will be teacher-created, as well as commercial i.e., PLATO software. Our program uses computer-managed instruction with a variety of software options to enhance student learning. Students will be provided